



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
JOIN . SERVE . PROTECT .
PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Tim Svenson, Executive Director
The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
Date: March 4th, 2025
Re: HB 3426 – Testimony in Support

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) strongly supports HB 3426, which enhances existing statutes to further restrict the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by private individuals during active search and rescue (SAR) and firefighting operations.

Drones have become an invaluable tool for law enforcement and emergency responders, allowing us to locate missing persons faster, assess hazardous situations, and improve overall safety during emergency operations. However, unauthorized drone activity by private citizens can interfere with these critical efforts, creating dangerous situations for first responders and the public we serve.

During SAR missions, unauthorized drones can disrupt aerial coordination, delay rescue efforts, and potentially endanger both search teams and those in distress. In wildfire incidents, unauthorized drones have been known to halt aerial firefighting operations, placing communities at greater risk. By clarifying and strengthening restrictions on private drone use in these scenarios, HB 3426 helps ensure emergency operations proceed without unnecessary interference.

OSSA urges your support for HB 3426 to prioritize safety, enhance emergency response effectiveness, and protect the lives of Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.